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MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DEBATES

SECOND SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT, 1935.

Volume III (Nos. 1 to 13).

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Policy of the Government as regards introduction of Hindi or Hindustani as compulsory or optional language in schools.

36 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: With reference to the answer to question 80 (*b*) on 18th September 1937, will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Legal Departments be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the policy and programme of Government are as to introducing Hindi or Hindustani as compulsory or optional language in elementary and secondary schools in various districts in this Presidency including South Kanara; and

(*b*) how far Hindi or Hindustani has been introduced in Government, local bodies and aided schools, and what the number of pupils is that are studying Hindi or Hindustani language in various schools in this Presidency?

A.—(*a*) There is no proposal to introduce the teaching of Hindustani in elementary schools. As regards secondary schools, a proposal is under consideration for introducing 'Hindustani' in Forms I to III in about 125 schools in the next year.

(*b*) Hindustani is now taught as an optional subject in 104 secondary schools, mainly under district boards. The Government have no definite information at hand on the other details.

Government's decision in regard to welfare of labourers in coffee and tea estates referred to in Legislative Council Question No. 1 *answered on* 21*st December* 1937.

37 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: With reference to the answer given on 21st December 1937 to my question No. 1, will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state whether the Government have arrived at a decision on the matter and if so, what that decision is?

A.—The matter is still under consideration. The Government hope to arrive at a decision soon.

Legislation for reduction of interest on debts due by industrialists.

38 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to refer to the answer given to my question No. 5 on 21st December 1937, and to state whether Government have since decided or have proposed to take any steps by way of legislation for reduction of interest to be recovered by creditors on debts due by industrialists employing a large number of labourers?

A.—There is a proposal under consideration to fix maximum rates of interest which money-lenders could charge.